Social Psychology Syllabus
Fall 2018
PSYC-231-DL2

Instructor
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Office: David King 3077 / Online
Office Hours: By Appointment

Description
This course provides students with a survey of the topics covering the social bases of behavior. Social psychology is the scientific study of how people think about one another, influence one another, and relate to one another. We will examine some of the historical and philosophical foundations of social psychology, as well as theories and models of various social phenomena. Through text reading, online lectures, writing assignments, and exams, you will learn about empirical studies of these phenomena, understand how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors, and think about applications of that research to your life. This course is part of the social and behavioral sciences general education core. Accordingly, this course will have the following learning outcomes:

● Recognize and recall key concepts, terminology, principles or theories within the field
● Describe and explain methodological approaches used in social psychological research
● Use appropriate methods and resources to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles, or theories to your life

Required Materials
Revel: You are required to purchase the Revel version of Aronson, Wilson, and Sommers, Social Psychology, 10e for this course. I will assign reading, writing, and other homework activities in Revel.

While access to Revel is required, the printed version of this text is optional - see purchasing options below. There are two ways to purchase Revel access.

Choose the option that works best for you:

Option #1: Purchase a Revel access code from the campus bookstore.

Option #2: Online Instant Access: If you decide not to purchase Revel from the bookstore, you can purchase Revel access online. You will see this as an option after clicking on the course invite link listed below.

When you register (via access code or online instant access), you also have the option of adding the print upgrade for $19.95 extra (no shipping cost).

Follow these steps to get started or watch a short video (www.pearsonhighered.com/Revel/students/registration) on how to register for Revel:
1. Enter your Course Invite Link in your web browser. Please use a recommended browser like Google Chrome, FireFox, or Safari.

**COURSE INVITE LINK:** [https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/0kd2vm](https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/0kd2vm)

2. If you already have a Username and Password for another Pearson technology (i.e. MyMathLab), go ahead and sign in. If you do not have one, you’ll need to create one using a valid email that you check regularly, like your school email address. Once you’ve signed in or created your Pearson Account, you’ll immediately be directed to your Revel account. Here you’ll see your course appear.

3. To access Revel throughout the semester log onto [http://console.pearson.com](http://console.pearson.com). Make sure to bookmark this URL and NOT the course invite link. Remember to always use the same username and password to logon.

If you encounter any issues, support materials are available at [www.pearsonhighered.com/Revel/students/support/index.html](http://www.pearsonhighered.com/Revel/students/support/index.html), including a call in number: 855-875-1801.

Access to a computer or mobile electronic device (tablet or smartphone) with internet access is required to complete your Revel assignments. Please let me know if you need information on computers available for use on campus.

**Grading**

**Introductory Video:**
Within the first week of class you are to submit a short (2-4 minute) introductory video that will be viewed by just the professor regarding what topics you look forward most to covering, whether you’ve taken an online course in the past, and your strategy for successfully keeping up with the coursework. Submitting this video counts towards 5% of your final grade.

**Quizzes**
Three quizzes will be given for this course. Students are responsible for all material covered in assigned readings and lectures. Materials not covered in the text is often discussed in the online lectures. The lowest quiz score will be dropped in calculating your final class grade. *Any missed quizzes will be used for this drop.*

Each quiz will be made of multiple-choice questions. Quizzes are taken online with the Respondus Lockdown Browser. I will leave the quiz open for a minimum of 48 hours. You will need a computer with a webcam; the program uses AI to detect potential cheating behaviors, and I will review any suspicious activity. To keep everything unambiguous, it is suggested that you do not do anything else while taking an exam. You can download the browser here at the courses section of your Blackboard, and view a help sheet here.

**Final Exam**
The cumulative final exam will cover the entirely of the course, and will be given online. The exam will be open for a period of at least 48 hours around the date of 12/17.

**Reaction Papers**
One of the learning outcomes for this course is to apply the concepts of social psychology to your life. Accordingly, one component of your course grade will be based on the completion of reaction papers where you will use your knowledge of dissonance, attitudes, social influence, and scientific methodology to provide recommendations to change attitudes and behaviors that impact a social issue of your choosing. Reaction Papers #1 should not be longer than 3 double spaced pages (1” margins), Times New Roman 12-point font. Reaction Paper #2 should not be longer than 4 double spaced pages (1” margins), Times New Roman 12-point font. Specific details will be given later in the term.
Reaction Paper #1 (8%): In this first paper, you will violate a social norm of your choosing (after checking with me first). You must describe your norm violation, report others’ reactions, and discuss relevant psychological principles.

Reaction Paper #2 (12%): You will discuss how psychological principles are evidenced on social media sites.

Research Participation
Students are required to earn 3 SONA credits, which are equivalent to three hours of research participation. You can participate in any number of research projects, but the SONA credits assigned to this course must total to 3. (The number of credits for a study may range from .5 credit hours upward). For students who choose not to participate in an experiment, attendance at alternative lectures (which can be accessed through SONA) or completing an alternative writing assignment meet this requirement. You must notify me by 11/18 if you opt for the alternative writing assignment.

To sign up for an experiment/lecture, you must log on to: http://gmu.sona-systems.com/. Enter all the required information – you will need your GMU e-mail account as a user ID and also your student ID number. You will also need to select this course (PSYC231-005) during registration. Failure to assign your SONA credits to the correct course and section by the deadline will result in a zero for the research participation requirement. Please be aware that each SONA credit can only be assigned to one course.

Grading Disputes
All grades will be posted on blackboard, and you will be notified when grades are up. Once grades are posted, you will have a week to contact me if you feel that your grade is incorrect. For the final exam, this period is shortened to 24 hours. After that point, there will be no changes to the grades on blackboard.

Late Work
All work is expected to be turned in on time. For every day that an assignment is late, 10% will be deducted from the possible grade. For example, if an assignment that would have received a grade of 80 points is turned in one week late it will be worth 65% of the original grade (52 points). After a week, late assignments will not be accepted. Non-penalty extensions will be considered in the case of a family or medical emergency with proper documentation.

Grading Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory video</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams:</td>
<td>30% (15% for each exam – the lowest of the three will be dropped)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Papers:</td>
<td>20% (Paper #1 - 8% and Paper #2 - 12%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revel assignments:</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SONA:</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Letter Grade
Based on the percentages that you receive on your exams and project deliverables, your final letter grade will be calculated using the following:

- A+ = 97-100%
- B+ = 87-89%
- C+ = 77-79%
- D = 60-69%
- A = 93-96%
- B = 83-86%
- C = 73-76%
- F = <60%
- A- = 90-92%
- B- = 80-82%
- C- = 70-72%
Technology

Blackboard – Lectures, grades, announcements, supplementary readings and other miscellaneous information will be posted on Blackboard. Please check Blackboard frequently.

Email - Most communication will be completed by email. I can only respond to gmu.edu email addresses, so please only use your Mason email in correspondence with me.

Revel Readings and Assignments – Readings, assignments, and short quizzes on your readings are done via the Revel digital environment. Please see the above section on required materials for details.

Exams – Exams are given online using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. You will need a computer with a webcam; the program uses AI to detect potential cheating behaviors, and I will review any suspicious activity. To keep everything unambiguous, it is suggested that you do not do anything else while taking an exam. You can download the browser here at the courses section of your Blackboard, and view a help sheet here.

Honor Code

As the instructor for the course, I reserve “the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an Honor Code violation.” Violations of the honor code include (but are not limited to) lying, cheating, plagiarism, as well as turning in or accepting credit for work that is not yours. I take this very seriously. For more information, go to www.gmu.edu/catalog/9798/honorcod.html.

Disability Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Office (703-993-2474). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Please make these arrangements with sufficient time before the first exam to allow for making the necessary accommodations.

Add/ Drop/ Withdraw Deadlines

Last day to add: Tuesday September 4th
Last day to withdraw: Friday September 18th
Selective Withdrawal Period: Monday October 1st – Friday October 26th

I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus, and will give students ample notice to any changes.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>8/26-9/1</td>
<td>Syllabus/ Course Intro/ Social Psych Intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>9/2-9/8</td>
<td>Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research</td>
<td>Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>9/9-9/15</td>
<td>Social Cognition: How We Think About the Social World</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>9/16-9/22</td>
<td>Social Perception: How We Come To Understand Other People</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>9/23-9/29</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Chapters 1-4</td>
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<td>The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>9/30-10/6</td>
<td>Cognitive Dissonance and the Need to Protect Our Self-Esteeem</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>10/7-10/13</td>
<td>Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>10/14-10/20</td>
<td>Conformity: Influencing Behavior</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>10/21-10/27</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 5-8</td>
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<td>Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>10/28-11/3</td>
<td>Interpersonal Attraction</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>11/11-11/17</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 9-11</td>
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<td><em>Reaction Paper #1 Due</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>11/18-11/24</td>
<td>Achieve a Sustainable Future</td>
<td>SPA1; Cialdini (2003); Van Vugt (2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>11/25-12/1</td>
<td>Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People?</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>12/2-12/8</td>
<td>Prejudice: Causes, Consequences, and Cures</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Reaction Paper #2 Due</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>Cumulative Online Final Exam</td>
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